

REMARKS / AMENDMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2005 and the Examiner Interview of September 29, 2005, claims 1, 7, 15, 18, and 23 have been amended and claims 3 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-18, and 20-38 are in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The applicant's representative gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's consideration during the telephonic interview of September 29, 2005. In the interview, the Examiner confirmed the allowability of claims 4-6, 11-14, 20-22 and 27-30. The subject matter of claims 3 and 15 was also discussed during the interview and agreement was reached with respect to allowance of claims incorporating the subject matter recited in claims 3 and 15, clarified as discussed during the interview.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3 and has been further amended to recite "respective discrete" elevations for each arch attachment area as discussed during the interview. Claim 3 has been canceled and claim 7, which depended from claim 3, has been amended to depend from claim 1. It is believed that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 7-10, 16-17, and 34-36 depend from claim 1 and are therefore likewise believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 18 and dependent claim 19 recited the same subject matter as claims 1 and 3, respectively, as it pertains to the anode element. Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate dependent claim 19 and in the same manner as claim 1, discussed above. Claim 19 has been canceled. Although claims 18 and 19 were not specifically discussed during the interview, in view of the Examiner's indication that claim 1, as amended herein, would be allowable, it is believed that claim 18, amended in the same manner, is also in condition for

allowance. Dependent claims 23 (as amended), 24-26, 31-33, and 37-38 depend from claim 18 and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been amended to be in independent form, including the subject matter of (unamended) claim 1. As discussed during the interview, claim 15 has been further amended to clarify the functionality of the cooling channels as it pertains to defining the position of the predefined arc attachment points in the anode. In particular, and as discussed during the interview, the arc attachment regions are "defined by differences in the capacity of the cooling channels to remove heat from regions of the anode element adjacent the central bore" so that the cooling capacity is less in areas where the arcs are intended to attach than in regions adjacent the predefined arc attachment points in the central bore.

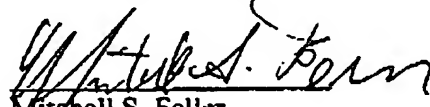
In view of the discussion with the Examiner, it is believed that claim 15, as presently amended, is also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner believe that further clarifying amendments to claims 1, 15, and 18 are necessary prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below

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Respectfully submitted,


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